



December 18, 2019

We have made to the end of 2019! It's been another amazing year in Morro Bay. Thank you, Morro Bay residents and business owners, for being so engaged in the City. You make the City and community stronger with your participation! As we head into 2020, I'd like to bring to your attention a couple of time sensitive items:

The City of Morro Bay, along with the City of SLO joined Monterey Bay Community Power (MBCP) in 2019. MBCP is a locally controlled, community governed not-for-profit electricity provider that gives consumers a choice with regard to how and where your electricity is generated. PG&E customers in Morro Bay will transition to MBCP beginning in January 2020, which will save the average customer up to 5% on their electricity bill compared to PG&E rates. There will be no change in your electricity service and the transition will occur seamlessly (you will continue to receive your electricity bill through PG&E – with a line item on the bill showing you are participating in MBCP). To learn more information or if you have questions about opting out of the program, please visit www.mbcommunitypower.org.

In addition, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training is being made available in January 2020 by the Estero Bay CERT (visit their website at <https://esterobaycert.com>). CERT is a hands-on course that teaches individuals to be better prepared for major disasters and to form effective neighborhood teams to assist others. Please visit their website or call the Morro Bay Fire Department at 805-772-6242 for more information.

On behalf of the City, I would like to wish you all happy holidays and a wonderful New Year!

-Scott Collins, City Manager

City Goals – Waterfront/Harbor Sustainability



City Council adopted four major [goals](#) and numerous action items for the City for 2019 and 2020. In last month's [edition](#) of the Update, the City Manager discussed the City's current efforts to address infrastructure needs, including maintaining parks, restrooms, streets and sidewalks and public areas such as our waterfront and beaches. A related effort is the City's work to create a sustainable

Harbor Fund, which is an enterprise fund separate from the City's General Fund. The Harbor Fund provides resources for the Harbor Patrol operations as well infrastructure in the waterfront area, such as boat launch, piers, boat slips and public areas. Not unlike the General Fund, the Harbor Fund has faced challenges for the past several years following the decommissioning of the Morro Bay Power Plant (MBPP). Prior to decommission, the MBPP provided significant direct funding to the Harbor Fund to support operations and infrastructure.

Within that context, the City is pursuing a number of initiatives related to the Harbor/Waterfront. In the short-term, the City with the help of an ad hoc committee of business and harbor experts are developing policies for waterfront lease management. The City, through the Tidelands Trust, owns the land on the water in the Harbor area, and leases the land to master lease holders. The City receives rent from those properties which is deposited into the Harbor Fund and is its main source of revenue. The City's Harbor Advisory Board and City Council will review the ad hoc committee's work in early 2020.

On the more mid to long-term horizon, the City has partnered with [Central Coast Aquarium](#) and Cal Poly to develop a modern aquarium on the waterfront. A new aquarium would be a huge draw for visitors and locals alike. CCA is leading the effort and is in the process of developing concepts for City Council to consider and to potentially launch a capital campaign to raise funds to build the aquarium. This exciting opportunity will be brought back to City Council for consideration in early 2020.

Also, in the more long-term picture, the City is in the process of supporting and encouraging the development of offshore wind off the Central Coast. The Federal government is conducting a comprehensive stakeholder process to determine the feasibility for offshore wind development, that could tie into the grid in Morro Bay. This could bring jobs to the community and revenues and infrastructure improvements to the City. That likely window for development of offshore wind in Morro Bay is 5 -1 0 years. Meanwhile, the City executed a community benefits agreement with [Castle Wind, LLC](#) in 2018 for this opportunity.

These opportunities will help sustain the Harbor Fund, its operations and infrastructure well into the future.

Public Works

Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) Program Update

The City is making progress on several fronts regarding the Water Reclamation Facility (WRF) program, including nearing completion of design for the advanced treatment facility, permitting the overall program, and working with the federal government to complete the loan agreement for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funding. However, the City has experienced some unanticipated issues that have delayed initial construction of the WRF facility. The WRF update below is by in large the same as what was provided in the November 2019 City Manager Update.

WRF Permitting

After receiving approval of its Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the WRF program by the California Coastal Commission (CCC), City staff has been focused on satisfying CCC conditions to obtain the CDP, completing federal agency review of the project, and preparing the purchase agreements for the South Bay Blvd. property for the treatment plant. The City received the [Coastal Development Permit](#) on Thursday, November 14, 2019, for the first stage of the project (initial construction of the treatment facility on South Bay Blvd). The City has also completed most of the work to secure the property on South Bay Blvd.

WRF Design/Construction and Funding Update

The original goal was to complete all the permitting work and obtain a funding agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its WIFIA low-interest loan program and begin construction prior to November 2019. The WIFIA loan, in combination with the State Revolving Fund (SRF) low-interest loan and grant will help keep the overall water and sewer rates down as low as possible by significantly reducing the debt on the loans compared to a traditional loan program. The loans and SRF grant also help pay for the potable reuse portion of the project. There may be a financial impact resulting from the delayed start of the project, though the amount is unknown at this time.

However, the City cannot begin project construction until it has satisfied all the requirements of the state and federal low-interest loan and grant financing. The City recently learned from the EPA that there is [more work to do](#) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services, regarding sensitive habitat of listed species. This is part of the overall additional environmental work required to secure federal funding. The City is providing all needed information expeditiously and is hopeful this process will be addressed comprehensively and efficiently over the next several weeks and begin construction in early 2020. City staff are doing everything they can to limit the financial impact resulting from the delayed start of the project.

City staff presented [60% design plans](#) for the WRF treatment facility and the conveyance system to the special advisory board (WRFCAC) tasked with reviewing the project on Wednesday, November 20. Staff continues work to advance those design plans to 90%. City Council recently shifted the remaining duties of the WRFCAC to the Public Works Advisory Board (PWAB), as the vast majority of the original tasks assigned to WRFCAC by the City have

been accomplished. The Citizen's Finance Advisory Committee (CFAC) will continue to review the WRF Quarterly Financial reports.

Advisory Body Positions

The City is accepting applications to fill current unscheduled and upcoming vacancies on the Planning Commission, CFAC, PWAB, Recreation & Parks Commission and Tourism Business Improvement District (TBID) advisory bodies. Applications are due Friday, January 3, 2020 – please visit the City [website](#) for more information.

Transportation Update

The City's new Transit bus rolled out into service on November 21, 2019. The bus was paid for with grants from the Rural Transit Fund and Public Transportation Modernization, Improvement, and Service Enhancement Account, as well as State funding the City receives for our Transit services from SB1-State of Good Repair program and Transportation Development Act Local Transportation Fund. The vehicle was purchased through the California Association for Coordinated Transportation and Morongo Basin Transit Authority (CalACT/MBTA) Purchasing Cooperative where the City piggybacked on its purchasing contract. In doing so, the City saved time and money by not having to go through our own Request for Proposals process, as well as obtaining a better vehicle price due to the large volume of vehicles secured with fixed pricing through the term for the CalACT/MBTA's purchasing contract.



Morro Bay Transit has provided more than 2.1 million rides since it began operation on May 2, 1977. Morro Bay Transit operates a year-round fixed route and Call-A-Ride service, and a seasonal Trolley service. If you haven't tried the service, check it out. For more information, visit www.morrobayca.gov/mbt.

Consolidated Maintenance Update - Top Results for the Last Four Weeks

- **Streets**
 - Replaced asphalt berm on the 100 blk. of Main St. with 4 tons of Hot Mix Asphalt. Compact shoulder back with Red Rock.
 - Cold Mix Asphalt repairs were made on the 2000 blk. of Alder and 200 blk. of Kern.
 - Cleaned and graded water swale at San Jacinto/Alder, install liner and Rip Rap Rock to control water.
 - Cleaned all required storm drains around town for 2019.
- **Trees/Vegetation**
 - Trimmed and lifted canopies on several trees around town out of the ROW and for hazard reduction.
 - Trimmed back all ice plant off curb along Beachcomber Drive with the CMC crew.
 - Removed 2 street trees and 1 park tree that were hazardous and/or deceased.
 - Trimmed and lifted 21 tree canopies for height clearance along the West side of the 100 blk. of Main.
 - Removed and hauled away all soil from 18 downtown planter boxes in preparation for replant.
- **Lila Keiser**
 - Removed clogged pipe and fittings for 2 urinals, rebuilt waste line with new parts and reassembled.
- **Tidelands**
 - Installed new standup barbecue at picnic table pad.
- **Centennial**
 - Moved and placed Santa house from storage to Centennial open area.
- **Public Works**
 - Remove furniture and carpet from copy room. Prepare floors, install new carpet tiles and cove base.
- **City Hall**
 - Unclog sewer backup in front stall, resealed leaking deadline cap and replaced damaged carpet tiles.
- **Community Center**
 - Removed old leaking water heater and installed new one.

- **MBPD**
 - Installed new commercial exhaust fan in Men's locker room.
- **Vets Hall**
 - Sealed comp roof leaks and other suspect areas with roof patch.
- **MBFD**
 - Diagnose and repaired faulty fan controls for HVAC units and reprogrammed logic controls for proper operation.
- **Corp Yard**
 - Dug out section of asphalt driveway and repaired water leak on 2" main line servicing the facilities.
- **Facilities**
 - Replaced HVAC filters in all City facilities.
 - Cleaned rain gutters on all City facilities.
 - Assembled and installed 8 lighted Christmas trees at City facilities and properties.



Berm improvements on Main Street.

Utilities Update

At the beach access at the end of Atascadero road, staff cleared and re-fenced the storm drain and surrounding discharge area. For your safety please stay clear of the fencing and the discharge area. (The City Manager Update continues onto the next page).



Utilities staff continue to make steady progress on the in-house demo of the old seawater desalination facility. In addition, in November, 182 tons of biosolids were removed from the wastewater treatment plant and hauled to a composting and recycling facility in Lost Hills, Ca.



This year's state water shutdown occurred from October 31st through November 18th. During that time period 100 percent of the city potable water supply was provided by city groundwater wells treated through reverse osmosis (RO) membranes. As an additional maintenance measure during this time the city switches to free chlorine in the disinfection process, as compared to other parts of the year where chloramines are used for this purpose. While state water flows have not yet returned to full operation due to ongoing maintenance, RO treated ground water continues to supplement state water as it does throughout the entire year.



Harbor

Take a moment to drive down on the Embarcadero if you haven't already to see this year's Crab Pot Christmas Tree at Anchor Memorial Park. This is the fourth year Harbor Patrol Officers have set this up and it definitely adds to our holiday cheer. A special thanks to our commercial fishing community for supplying the crab pots and hanging float "ornaments."

The Lighted Boat Parade had a good turnout even though the weather scared some folks from participating or attending. It is a lot of work to set lights up on a boat, especially in the rain, so thanks to all those who participated!

As winter weather and shorter days have set in, the Harbor Patrol has been busy keeping boats afloat, rescuing kayakers stuck in the mud and responding to surfers in distress. We have recorded nearly three inches of rain in the last two weeks. This amount of rain has caused several small boats to be in need for Harbor Patrol to pump them out or monitor them so they do not sink. Boat owners are encouraged to check on their boats regularly, especially before after any rain. This time of year, there are extreme tidal changes associated with that awesome full moon and later in the month with the new moon. Harbor Patrol assisted four kayakers this

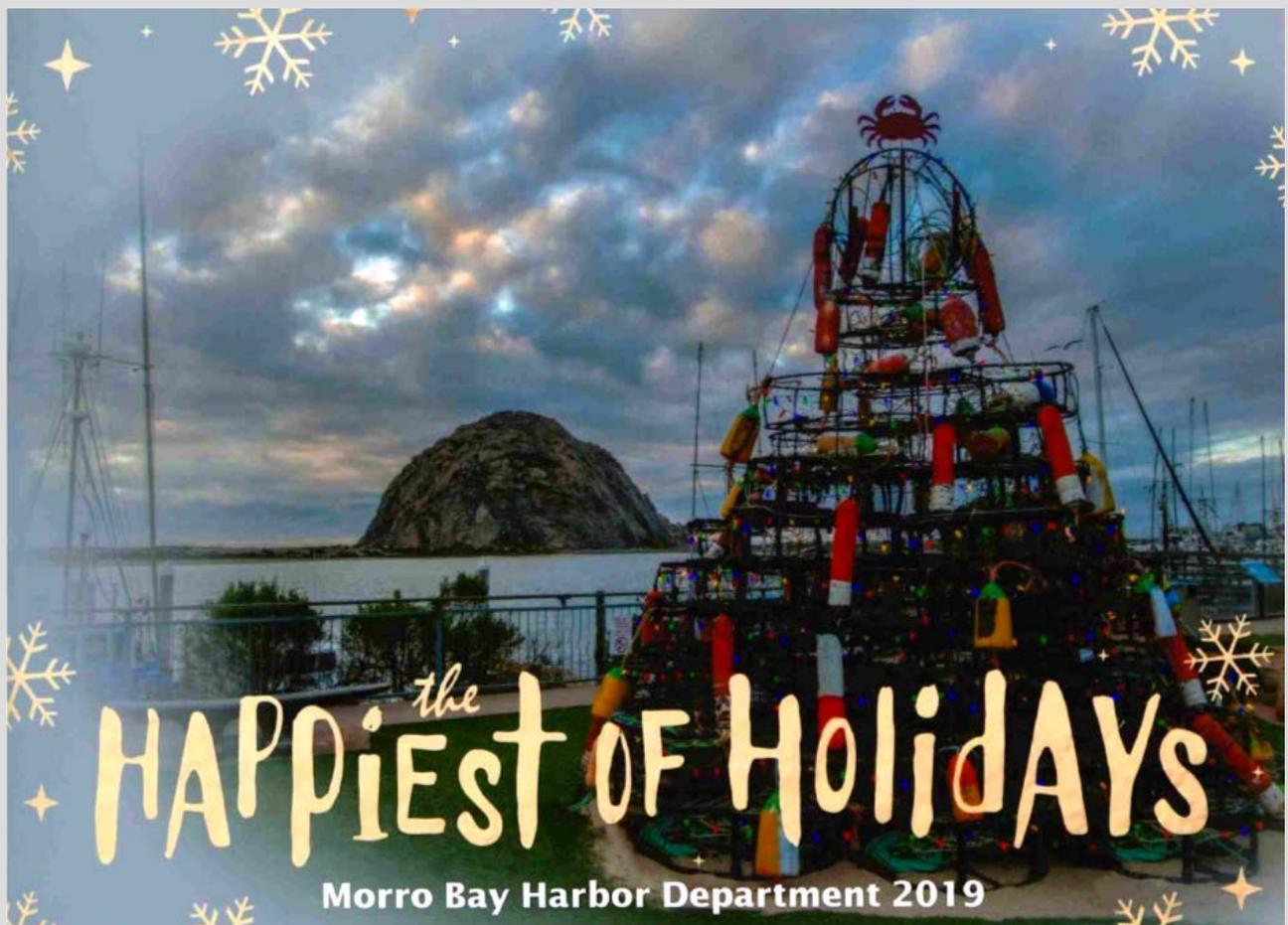
week who set out from Los Osos on a high tide at noon and found themselves stuck in the mud over near the sandspit in the evening. This is a common call for assistance that can turn into an emergency as the sun sets so early and most people are not prepared for the chill of the night air. So, check your tide books before you set out on the bay.

A few other notable calls included:

Police and Harbor Patrol responded in the middle of the night to a boat in the harbor with a report of domestic violence. A search for all parties involved took place to make sure no one was in the water. The same night, a boat in the anchorage was dragging its anchor towards other vessels and was relocated to a safe mooring by the Harbor Patrol.

Harbor Patrol responded to a drunk driver drove his car down the launch ramp and pinned his wheel under the dock. Luckily, he didn't hurt himself or anyone else, but was hauled off to jail and his car was towed out with major damage.

On Friday December 13, Harbor Patrol and Coast Guard responded to a surfer in distress off Spooner's Cove in Montana de Oro State Park. The surfer struggled to swim to shore after the leash on his board gave away in 10-12 foot surf. He was lucky to scurry up some rocks to safety but lost his board in the mishap.



Fire



With winter storms coming, we will see our utility poles take a hit

High wind and rain this winter will challenge some of our utility poles in our community. During high winds, we can see arching from the high voltage lines touching each other our tree limbs falling into the lines. Because we live in a salty air atmosphere, utility pole equipment such as connectors, transformers, and insulators are weakened and can fail during good rain activity. Utility pole arching and fires occur often in our community especially when mother nature strikes us with a good winter storm.

When you see a utility pole arching or on fire you should:



- ***First call 911 and state the location of the pole. The closest address to the power pole will be a great help.***
- ***Stay far away at least 50 feet from the affected area as wires may burn off and fall, or equipment that may explode.***
- ***If you are unable to get 50 feet from the arching wires or burning utility pole, stay in your home with all doors and windows closed***
- ***If your car is hit by a power line, stay inside unless there is immediate danger such as a fire.***
- ***Don't touch a metal fence that has come in contact with a fallen power line.***
- ***Firefighters will carefully survey the situation and will not park their vehicles under or near wires.***
- ***Firefighters may not take action until the power is secured by PG&E.***
- ***Electricity and water do not mix. Firefighters will extinguish the fire when the power has been shut off.***



Morro Bay Firefighters support “Fired up about Reading Program.”



Reserve Firefighter Jack Gearhart reading to Del Mar Second Graders

Children who read become smarter about the world and how it works. They read to broaden their vocabularies and to become better readers- faster and more fluent, purposeful, engaged, critical, and satisfied. They read to stretch their imaginations, to escape to other lives, times, and places. And they read to become good people knowledgeable about and compassionate toward the range of human experience. We hope reading aloud can get kids hooked on a new author or series of books. Plus, reading

aloud to our second graders gives kids a chance to explore genres and texts.

For many years, the Morro Bay Firefighters have been involved in partnership with Del Mar Elementary reading regularly to second graders. We hope we can help our next generation get interested in books that can carry them through the rest of their education. Who knows, we may be able to recruit a future Morro Bay Firefighter.



WE HAVE A EXTENSION to help our neighbors, Season of Hope in Morro Bay ~ December 20th



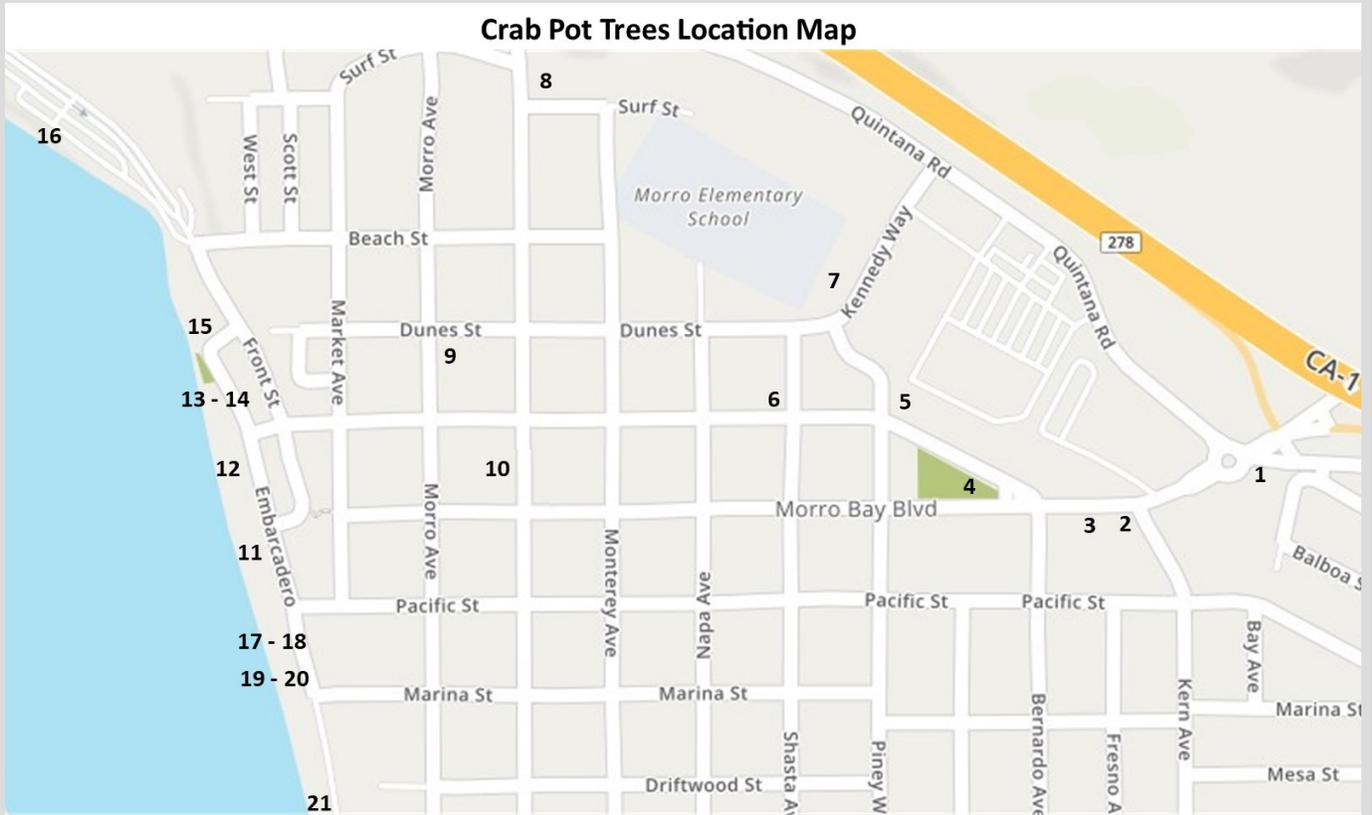
We are able to get an extension to December 20th to bring in your unwrapped toys and non-perishable food into our Harbor Street Fire Station. Morro Bay Firefighters will be making deliveries to Santa’s workshop and the SLO Food Bank late December 20th.

The community of Morro Bay has been participating in our Season of Hope program that provides unwrapped toys and non-perishable food to the neediest families and children in Estero Bay. We have teamed up with KSBY TV, local food banks, toy agencies, fire departments, the California Highway Patrol to put together the largest community-wide food and toy drive on the Central Coast. If you able, please bring an unwrapped toy or non-perishable food to donate; lets help our neighbors. We are very proud of the donation level our of community. THANKS FOR HELPING.

Tourism

Holiday Lights in Morro Bay –

Join the tradition of looking at outdoor holiday lights and delight in over 20 illuminated crab pot trees throughout Morro Bay during the month of December. Not only do these trees celebrate Morro Bay's commercial fishing roots, but they also provide a fun festive activity for the whole family.



1. Sinclair Gas Station – Morro Bay Boulevard & Quintana Road
2. Pacific Premier Bank – 898 Morro Bay Boulevard
3. Morro Bay Police Station – 850 Morro Bay Boulevard
4. City Park Official City Tree – 734 Harbor Street
5. Morro Bay Fire Station – 715 Harbor Street
6. Morro Bay City Hall – 595 Harbor Street (look up)
7. Morro Bay Community Center – 1001 Kennedy Way
8. Masterpiece Hotel – 1206 Main Street
9. La Serena Hotel – 990 Morro Avenue
10. Art Center Morro Bay – 835 Main Street
11. The Mermaid Boutique - 725 Embarcadero
12. Under the Sea Gallery - 833B Embarcadero
13. Anchor Park Commercial Crab Pot Tree - 925 Embarcadero

14. Poppy - 911 Embarcadero
15. Giovanni's Fish Market & Galley - 1001 Front St.
16. South T-Pier - 1185 Embarcadero
17. Tango - 699 Embarcadero
18. Windows on the Water - 699 Embarcadero
19. Suite 1 Gallery - 601 Embarcadero
20. Marina Square - 601 Embarcadero
21. Estero Inn - 501 Embarcadero



This year, the Morro Bay Commercial Fisherman's Organization's large commercial crab pot tree (stop #10) is located on the waterfront in Anchor Park – you won't want to miss it. Topped with a crab instead of a star, this tree sits at the heart of the Embarcadero with uninterrupted views of the bay and Morro Rock – perfect for the family holiday photo-op. Look for the Morro Bay selfie stop to help you line up the perfect shot!

For more information visit morrobay.org. If you'd like to get your own crab pot tree you can [order one \(or two\) here](#).

Police

Morro Bay Police Officers and Volunteers delivered approx. 70+ Thanksgiving meals to inbound residents in Morro Bay on Thanksgiving.

Caroling Cops

Morro Bay Police has once again pulled off a successful Caroling Cops! Neighborhood Watch and Morro Bay Police Volunteers partner with Police Patrol to escort Santa and community members riding on the Trolley while driving down every street in Morro Bay to hand out Christmas toys to kids and sing carols along the way. Many people commented on Facebook that even as adults, this event brings a smile and excitement to their night. Thank you, Neighborhood Watch and Morro Bay Police Volunteers!



Update on Robbery Case

Morro Bay Police they have identified a suspect in the Armed Robbery case at Check Into Cash. We are working with the DA's office on filing the case.

Recreation

Special Events

Recreation Services would like to thank our Morro Bay community for their participation in our annual Holiday Tree Lighting. We would especially like to thank Sean with Coastal Tree Experts for hanging our lights, MBFD for acting as Santa's sleigh, Morro Bay Trolley, the children of Morro Bay Kids' Club for their awesome performance, the dancers from Desert Coast Dance, Council Member Red Davis for acting as emcee for the event, and of course Santa!



Seniors

Weekly activities slow down a bit in December as the Cuesta Classes take a holiday break and we shift to shorter holiday hours. The Senior Center will still be open from 10-2 PM to allow pool, ping pong, chess and all the card players to continue playing as well as Senior Nutrition to continue to offer lunch as usual. We are filling the month with workshops in Fusion Glass, Christmas Wreath Making as well as a wine tasting afternoon along with presentations in assisted living and alternative joint pain solutions.

The highlight of the month will be our first ever Holiday Party and Dance on Friday, December 20th. Morro Bay Active Adults...55+ in conjunction with 39+ Dance club will hold a celebration to enhance the holiday spirit. Live music and ballroom dancing along with Christmas carol singalongs are sure to brighten up the Community Center.



Courageous seniors learning to Paddleboard with an on land lesson

Aquatics Programs

Our current pool schedule is M- F 5:30 am -7:45 am and M-F, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Sundays 11:00 am to 4:00 pm for lap swim. We are offering 2 aqua aerobics classes: Shallow water on Monday. Wednesday, Friday from 6:45 am to 7:45 am and Deep water on Tuesday and Thursday from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm. Private and semiprivate swim lessons are available on an appointment basis. Starting January 6, 2020 our schedule will be MWF 5:30 am -7:45 am; M-F 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and Sundays from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm for lap swim. Water Aerobics will be Shallow—MWF 6:45 am -7:45 am and Deep TTH 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Save the date: Morro Bay Junior Lifeguards registration will begin on March 30, 2020.

**2020 MORRO BAY
JUNIOR LIFEGUARDS**

**REGISTRATION
BEGINS MARCH 30**

2020 DATES
JUN 8-19 JUNIOR WATERMAN
JUN 22-JUL 10 MBJG SESSION 1
JUL 20-AUG 7 MBJG SESSION 2

Morro Bay Recreation Services
 1001 Kennedy Way, Morro Bay
www.morrobayca.gov (805) 772-6278

Sports

Esteros Bay Youth Basketball practices are under way with games beginning January 10 and 11. We have 260 boys and girls in grades 2nd through 8th grade playing. Thank you to our amazing sponsors: Lambright Electric; Red and Gail Davis; Morro Bay Active Adults; Ranch WiFi; Dorfman Kinesiology; Swallowcreek Ranch; Miner's Ace and Phantom. We are still looking for sponsors, if you are interested please call us at Recreation Services 805-772-6278. We also are looking for referees and scorekeepers.

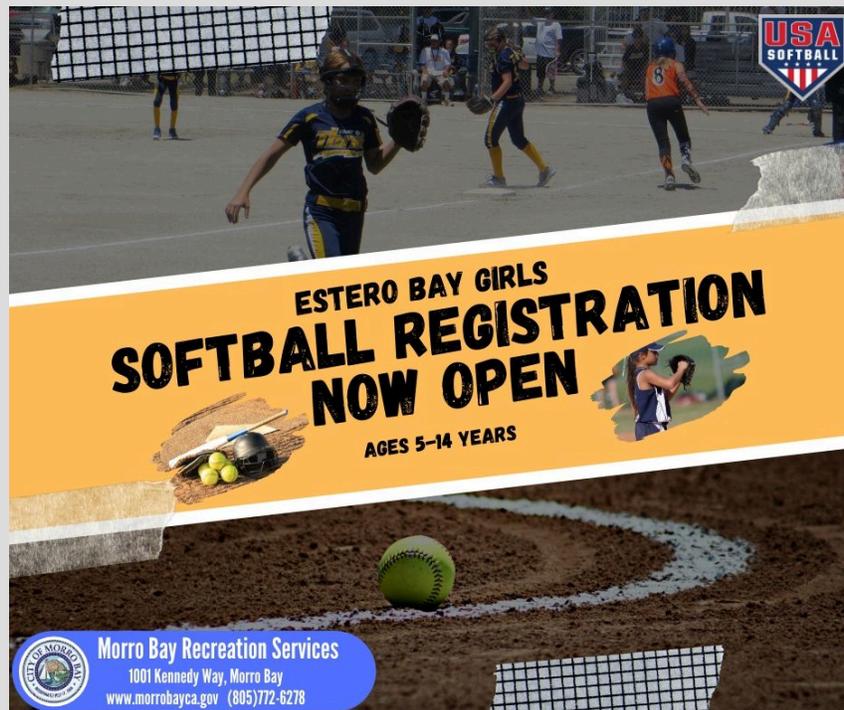
**Sponsor a
team
and make a
difference
in the life of
a child.**

Esteros Bay Youth Basketball is looking for sponsors for our youth basketball league

For your \$150 donation, we will include your business name on a team's jerseys and a logo will be included on a league sponsor banner

Morro Bay Recreation Services
805-772-6278

Estero Bay Girls Softball League registration is open through January 31, 2020. This program is open to girls ages 5-14. The 6 & Un girls play t-ball/coach pitch, the 8 & un girls play girl/coach pitch, the 10 & under, 12 & under and 14& under play Fastpitch. Games are held on weeknights and Saturdays may be played in Los Osos, Morro Bay, San Luis Obispo, Atascadero, Templeton and Paso Robles.



Fall Adult Softball finished on December 2. ABA was the league champions this season. We take the winter off so our next season will begin late March with registration beginning on January 27.

Estero Bay Youth Futsal registration will begin on February 24 with the season beginning the week of April 13. Futsal is a noncompetitive indoor soccer game open to boys and girls in Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Youth Services

- Youth Services:
 - November 25th & 26th Youth Services hosted a Holiday Hangout.
 - Youth Services will be offering care Monday and Friday of Winter Break to assist families with childcare.

**Morro Bay
Recreation Services
Presents**

HOLIDAY HANGOUT

**December 23rd, 27th,
30th & January 3rd**

**Monday 12/23:
Elf Workshop**
We will be little elves working away on holiday gifts for friends and family.

**Friday 12/27:
Snowed In**
Movies, popcorn, pajamas games, and hot cocoa!

**Monday 12/30:
Happy Noon Year**
Count down to 2020, the big party will be at Noon!

**Friday 1/3:
New Year New You**
Let's bring in the new year in style!

**4 DAYS FOR \$150
3 DAYS FOR \$120
2 DAY FOR \$80
OR
\$45 A DAY**
Register
@ MB Recreation Office
by **Dec. 20th**

COME JOIN THE FUN!
When: Mondays & Fridays of Winter Break
7:00 am - 6:00 pm
Who: Ages 4-12 years old
Where: Kids' Club 501 Sequoia J25, MB

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT ANGELICA AT (805)772-6279

- Rockies Teen Center and Teen Action Committee
 - Rockies Teen Center is open Monday through Friday 3:00-7:00PM, for all 6th – 12th graders. We will be closed for the SLCUD winter break.

Community Development

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY UPDATE FOR November 2019

Planning Division Activity

Planning Commission:

Nov. 5, 2019: 210 Atascadero (formerly Flippo's) – Major Mod. Remove vintage car display and add 6 batting cages. ACTION: Approved

405 Atascadero Road – Conceptual review for a 35-unit affordable housing project. ACTION: PC provided comment

833 Embarcadero – new 6,687 mixed use commercial building, including 8 hotel rooms.
ACTION: Approved

November 19, 2019: Cancelled

Code Enforcement

New Cases: 15

Closed: 10

Ongoing: 14

Planning Permits Received

- Use Permits = 2
- Coastal Dev. Permits = 2
- Lot/Parcel Merger = 1
- Sign Permits = 2
- Sidewalk vending = 1
- Total Planning Permits = 8

Fees collected = \$15,437

Building Division Activity

- Permits Issued = 33
- Valuation = \$1,012,245
- Fees Received = \$99,418
- # of Inspections = 277
- New Building Permits = 8